

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ERS NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

August/September 1992

Volume 10, Number 4

First Agricultural Outlook Conference Held in Poland

To mark the completion of the first year of ERS's cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture in Poland, the two organizations cosponsored an Agricultural Outlook Conference in Warsaw, June 23-24. The conference was inspired by USDA's Outlook Conference, which the key coordinator from Poland attended 20 years ago. ERS participants were Lee Christensen, Nancy Cochrane, Linwood Hoffman, Mark Lundell, Ronald Meekhof, Bob Robinson, Fred Surls, and Edwin Young.

The conference was an effective showcase for the success of the collaborative efforts. It was organized almost entirely by Poland's Ministry of Agriculture and the Warsaw Institute of Agricultural Economics, and the structure of the program was a clear reflection of our counterparts' increased understanding of the importance of information in a market economy. Over 200 attended the conference, including ministry officials, members of producer associations and farmers unions, international grain traders, representatives from Poland's extension centers, university staff, and others. The conference received extensive coverage in the press, including a spot on Warsaw television's weekly roundup of agricultural events in which the conference was billed as the "most significant event in Polish agriculture of the week." The conference did much to raise the level of awareness of ERS's program

within the Polish agribusiness community and helped solidify support in the Ministry. It also aroused the interest of international news organizations, including Radio Free Europe.

The opening session featured speeches by Minister of Agriculture Janowsky, who stressed the importance of economic analysis in policymaking and praised the work of USDA and the cooperating Polish agencies; Bob Robinson, who spoke on the global changes in agricultural markets and their impact on Polish agriculture; and Fred Surls, who spoke on the role of the situation and outlook program at USDA. Elsewhere in the program, Mark Lundell presented two papers: one on the Hungarian agricultural situation and one on the implications of EC integration for central Europe.

Nancy Cochrane chaired a session on the agriculture situation in the other central European countries. For this session, ERS invited representatives from each of the other central European countries in which ERS has a program. These papers were well received by the Polish audience. This session was a valuable opportunity to bring scholars from the different countries together. In the past, there had been frequent contact among the research institutes of the former Comecon countries. However, since the beginning of the transition to market-oriented economies, these contacts have become less frequent, partly due to budget constraints and partly due to the increasing westward orientation of all the institutes.

Two ERS Groups and EMS Information Division's Decker Receive USDA Superior Service Awards

At USDA's annual awards ceremony on June 10, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan presented USDA's Superior Service Award to two ERS groups and EMS Information Division's Diane Decker.

The Resources and Technology Division's Work Force Diversity Team—Betsey Kuhn, Leslee Lowstuter, and Kenneth Robinson—was recognized for developing an innovative, creative, and effective program for improving work force diversity in the Economic Research Service. The team conceived and organized a workshop on new ideas in professional opportunities for minorities and women, which was aimed at improving communication between ERS and a diverse group

See AWARDS, p. 2



Kenneth Robinson, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, Betsey Kuhn, and Leslee Lowstuter.



Diane Decker and Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan.



Cheryl Christensen, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, Bob Robinson, and Jewell Tolliver.

of institutions and students. The workshop provided useful recruitment ideas, established new relationships for ERS, and provided new perspectives to the outside participants on ERS as a potential employer. The team followed up the workshop with numerous activities that enhanced ERS efforts to recruit and retain women and minorities.

The Eastern European Team—Bob Robinson, Cheryl Christensen, Nancy Cochrane, Jewell Tolliver, and Edwin Young—was recognized for developing a creative and timely program to assist Eastern and central European nations in their efforts to establish market-based agricultural economies. Their work has fostered development of public institutions that support rather than shackle private markets. They have assisted in generating and disseminating the information

needed to make market-oriented decisions. As a result, Eastern and central European reform policymakers and emerging entrepreneurs have the tools to link their goals and aspirations with the realities of the marketplace.

Also, ERS congratulates the Economics Management Staff Information Division's Diane Decker, who was also awarded a superior service award for her sustained excellent service in the situation and outlook publishing program, particularly *Agricultural Outlook* magazine.

ERS Welcomes Summer Interns

ERS is hosting its largest ever group of summer student interns, more than 50. The aims of the summer intern program include

assisting ERS in locating a diverse group of students from which to recruit, exposing students to ERS as a potential employer, and assisting ERS staff in getting their work done. The selection process this year was highly competitive. The number of applicants was far greater than in other years. Even more important, the accomplishments of the applicants are outstanding.

This year's students come from all over the United States, from a wide variety of schools, and from several different disciplines. They range from college sophomores to Ph.D. candidates, with most being June 1992 graduates and first-year graduate students. Sixteen of this year's students are from 1890 institutions, with three more from other historically black colleges and universities. Schools represented include Alabama A&M University, Alcorn A&M College, American University, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, Berea College, Brown University, University of California (Davis and Santa Cruz), Clemson University, Colorado State University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Duke University, University of Florida, Florida A&M University, University of Georgia, Hampton Institute, Howard University, University of Illinois, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, University of Maryland, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Mississippi State University, Notre Dame University, Ohio University, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, Prairie View A&M University, Purdue University, Roanoke College, South Carolina State University, University of South Carolina, Southern University, Spelman College, Texas Tech University, University of Virginia, College of William and Mary, and University of Wisconsin.

ERS Newsletter

Vol. 10, No. 4, August/September 1992

Editors: Verla Rape and Lindsay Mann

Layout and Design: Susan Yanero

Publication Assistants: Verna Blake and Gwen Matlock

Photos (unless credited): Kevin Toland

Division Representatives: William Anderson, Martha Frederick, Charles Hallahan, Thomas Stucker, and Kathryn Zeimet

The *ERS Newsletter* is published bimonthly by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed free to ERS employees, colleagues, and retirees. Send subscription requests and address changes to: *ERS Newsletter*, ERS/USDA, Rm. 1212, 1301 New York Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788 (phone 202-219-0310, fax 202-219-0044).

Food Economics Research Strengthened

Over the past several years, demand for food economics information has grown sharply. More of the demand for information from both inside and outside USDA is focusing on ERS. To more effectively respond to these new priorities and activities beyond the farm gate, ERS's Commodity Economics Division is separating food marketing work and consumption economics work into two branches. The two branches will draw on the old Food Marketing and Consumption Economics Branch's staff, added positions from the other branches in the division, and FY 1991-92 initiative funding and reimbursement overhead.

The Food Economics Branch will conduct research and analysis on consumer behavior, food assistance, and nutrition. The branch will also work with other CED branches and ERS's Resources and Technology

Division on food safety and food regulation issues.

The Marketing Economics Branch will expand its research and analysis of farm-to-retail prices and margins, strengthen its core program in food manufacturing and distribution, respond to demand for more staff analysis to support USDA's marketing programs, and fill in the gaps in our understanding of how marketing channels are changing.

ERS Food Safety Task Force Convenes

ERS recently convened an ad hoc food safety task force workshop in Washington, D.C., to develop a workable definition of food safety risks and to propose future directions for ERS's food safety program. Task force members are Jerry Sharples (chair), Anthony Grano, David Harrington, and Carol Kramer.

To gather background information on food safety problems and research needs, the task force members interviewed ERS researchers, people in other USDA agencies, and representatives of various nongovernment groups involved in food safety issues. A draft report was presented at the workshop. ERS invited outside experts Julie Caswell (University of Massachusetts), Eileen van Ravenswaay (Michigan State University), and Clark Burbee (USDA/CSRS) to respond to the report. They recommended that ERS increase emphasis on microbial causes of food safety problems and provide an overview of the economics of food safety risks.

The ERS food safety program addresses the demand for food safety as it derives from human health concerns, the supply of food safety attributes, effects of food safety concerns on food and commodity markets, and policy impact analysis.

Current Research

Ethanol Study Underway

The Department of Agriculture has requested that ERS update parts of a previous ERS study of the economics of ethanol. James Hrubovcak (202-219-0429) and Betsey Kuhn are coordinating the new study, which cuts across ERS divisions.

Matt Rendleman and Neil Hohmann are investigating potential technological advances that may be introduced from now to the year 2000 and their effects on ethanol production costs. Stephen Crutchfield and Joseph Cooper are examining the environmental impacts of ethanol.

Robert House, Mark Peters, Harry Baumes, and Terry Disney are assessing the potential impacts from additional ethanol production on agriculture. Mindy Petrulis,

Judith Sommer, and Fred Hines are estimating the employment effects of additional ethanol production. Margot Anderson is assessing the importance of agricultural and trade policies and increased ethanol production on the corn gluten feed market.

Several study participants were also involved in a recent biofuels workshop sponsored by USDA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Renewable Fuels Association and have been involved in interagency work groups contributing to USDA's biofuels initiative.

International Grain Quality Study Underway

In response to public concerns about the relationship between U.S.

grain quality and U.S. competitiveness in the world grain and oilseeds markets, ERS is cooperating with USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service to carry out a congressionally mandated study on the costs and benefits of producing cleaner grain for sale in domestic and world markets. The study will examine the costs and domestic benefits of producing cleaner grain in the United States and analyze whether the availability of cleaner grain would prompt higher prices and/or a greater share of the export market for U.S. producers. The first report on the wheat market is due in December.

Much of the research on the international component of the study is being accomplished through personal interviews of

See *INTERNATIONAL*, p. 7

Keeping ERS Relevant



Earlier this year, I had a call from an old friend who asked me to speak to his organization on maintaining institutional relevance in a changing world. That request led to discussions with Kitty Reichelderfer and others in the profession about how to keep ERS relevant in a rapidly changing environment. Recent talk of reorganizing and streamlining USDA provides further incentive to ponder the issue.

On the surface, keeping ERS relevant might appear easy enough; just change what ERS is doing so that the agency is responsive to the issues raised by the changes sweeping around us. But, life's not that simple. After all, relevance is in the eye and mind of the beholder. Our beholders are the diverse constituencies we serve. Traditional constituents may view ERS's traditional agenda as obviously more relevant to them than an agenda addressing "new generation" issues. And, there are other difficulties.

Institutions—legislative, political, economic, and social—are put in place at some point in history to respond to needs arising out of prevailing conditions and realities. The real world then changes, sometimes suddenly, but more often in gradual, unnoticed ways. But, institutions don't always keep up. Rigidities and barriers to change arise from vested interests in the old order, from legal and bureaucratic infrastructures that get built around the old order, and from people and their perspectives. In other words, the world changes but the institutional, legislative, political, bureaucratic, and business superstructures built around the old order don't fit the new agenda that arises out of a changed world.

ERS is as vulnerable to these rigidities as is any other institution. What can we do about them? Here are some options.

1. **Change the agenda.** In ERS, changing the research agenda is certainly seen as a way to maintain relevance. But it's not easy to do. We recognize—in fact, we are quite sensitive to—the new issues important to the public: environmental quality, sustainability, food safety, nutrition, water quality, animal welfare, global warming, global economic restructuring, and distributional issues, to name a few.

We get occasional jabs from some new constituencies: "Why aren't you doing more about these issues?" The staff and leaders of ERS agree that the new issues are substantively important, possibly more important than some of our ongoing work.

But, somewhat like land-grant agricultural experiment stations and colleges of agriculture, ERS is caught in a time warp! New constituencies carry less weight with those in the Congress and elsewhere who have been our traditional supporters. Also, policymakers and program managers in USDA are faced with a daily diet of decisions related to traditional commodity and trade programs. A growing number of suggestions from USDA and other sources would have ERS prepared to deal with new issues, but the daily workload still focuses heavily on the old. And, the political sensitivities still arise mostly out of the potential for offending USDA's traditional constituencies.

The tensions in ERS around this issue are made greater because of our declining real resource base and not much prospect for growth in the near future. Thus, new ventures have to be at the expense of old work. Recent efforts by USDA to have ERS show more activity on "new agenda" issues just increase the stress.

Despite these difficulties, the ERS agenda is changing. While not readily apparent from year-to-year, one has only to compare today's program mix with that of 5 years ago to see that a much larger share of resources is being allocated to "new agenda" issues.

2. **Change or extend what people do in their present jobs.** One way to change ERS's agenda is to do it in a less disruptive way—have people in the more traditional roles expand their work to incorporate new issues. For example, ERS' trade division is looking at environmental and food safety aspects of trade, and ERS' commodity analysts are extending their traditional supply, demand, and price work into sustainability and food safety.

Kitty Reichelderfer, speaking at a recent workshop of agricultural research administrators in Nebraska, suggested that dairy scientists extend their work to include waste management, that reputable corn geneticists refocus to work on decreasing nitrogen requirements, and that hog production system designers incorporate animal welfare into their designs.

The principle here is to obtain resource allocation and career changes by extending what people do and the resources they used in their former institutional setting. This principle reduces the appearance of radical change; thus, it is less threatening to managers, staff, and traditional constituencies and is often embraced by staff who are motivated by being involved gradually in new issues. Job titles and organizational labels can be changed later when a new title simply reflects an actual situation.

3. **Change the constituency.** Working with new constituencies is important. But, a nonautonomous agency like ERS can't get too far out on a limb with them when our support still comes from traditional constituencies.

For that reason, we have to start where the present constituents are and bring them along with us toward the agendas of new constituencies. Also, we can buy some flexibility and support for new work by serving our old constituencies well. In fact, most of them recognize the importance of the new issues; they just don't want us to abandon them. ERS has, in fact, bought some goodwill to work with new constituencies by first assuring that we serve USDA and its longstanding constituencies well.

4. **Change staff and leadership.** Most people operate from their personal experiences and perspectives. Thus, the focus of an agency is shaped by the people in it.

Most agricultural institutions, including ERS, were originally shaped by people who had personal backgrounds in agriculture. In fact, early agricultural policies were shaped by people who wanted to solve problems they had personally faced on the farm. Read H.C. Taylor's book, *A Farm Economist in Washington, 1919-25*, when it is released by the University of Wisconsin this fall. His views of what needed to be done in USDA and its Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE) undoubtedly came out of his own early life experiences on the farm.

Twenty years ago (and to some extent today) when people from other Federal agencies visited USDA, they noted the homogeneous group of "good old boys" who all grew up on farms. Today, most undergraduate and graduate students in schools of agriculture do not come from farm backgrounds; in fact, most are from urban areas. More of them are Hispanic, Black, Asian, and women. Also in ERS, more of the new staff are general economists from schools outside the land-grant system.

Perhaps 70-80 percent of the staff who have been at ERS for 20 years or more have farm backgrounds. Of those hired in the last 5 years, most do not have a farm background. These shifts in the composition of ERS staff, along with parallel shifts in the staff and leadership of USDA and the Congress, are changing the work we do and will continue to do so.

Also, more effort can be made to assure that some portion of new hires are well-trained broadly rather than being specialized in a subdiscipline or single methodology. Thus, midcareer shifts are less traumatic for individuals and their managers.

5. **Reorganize.** Reorganizations *can* refocus an agency, but they often do not. To help assure relevance, they must do more than (for example) shift from a functional to subject matter basis with no change in mission or what the people do. Reorganizations should be used creatively to change the program content of the agency.

6. **Kill it and start over again!** How many administrators have said to themselves, "If I were given a budget and a mandate to build an ERS from scratch that best serves the needs of today, it would not look like the present ERS"? The truth is that we have to accommodate a lot of fixed investments, people with outmoded skills, and historical precedents that take on a life of their own. Total dissolution of ERS would be a radical move, and there would be no assurance that support would exist to start a new ERS. But some "sunset" rules applied to projects and subareas of work within ERS might speed up the process of institutional change. We have used sunset rules in the past, but we have not been as bold as we might have been.

Maintaining the relevance of ERS in this time of global change is a major challenge. Our usefulness, if not our very existence, depends on meeting that challenge successfully. I look forward to working with ERS colleagues and friends to do just that, and I welcome your feedback.



John Lee



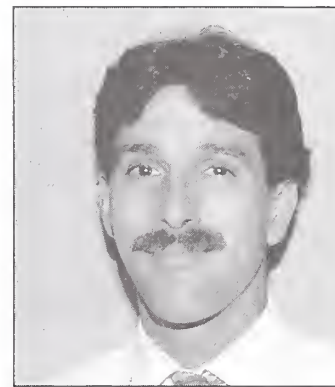
Hoffman



Roberts



Ribaldo



Reed

Hoffman Is New CED Section Leader

Linwood Hoffman was recently named leader, Grains and Feeds Research Section, Crops Branch, Commodity Economics Division.

Hoffman has most recently been working on the Eastern European institution building project in Poland. He first joined ERS' (then) Marketing Economics Division in 1972 to work on transportation systems for agricultural inputs and products. In 1974, Hoffman transferred to a field assignment at the University of Illinois to conduct research on the economic effects of demand-sensitive railroad rates on the storage and transportation system for U.S. feed grains. In 1978, he returned to Washington to continue research on transportation systems. During 1980-82, Hoffman was a staff economist with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. In 1982, he returned to ERS' Inputs and Finance Branch and transferred to the Crops Branch in 1984.

Hoffman has authored or coauthored numerous articles and research reports, including chapters in books, USDA monographs, and journal articles on transportation, grain marketing, and related issues. He has conducted staff analyses and mandated studies on grain-related topics, served as acting editor of *Agricultural Outlook*, and

has been active in CSRS-sponsored regional research projects.

Hoffman has a B.S. and an M.S. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He received three USDA Certificates of Merit, one for editing *Agricultural Outlook*, one for conducting a mandated study on oat imports, and one for studying the effects of drought on use of futures markets.

Roberts Is New CED Section Leader

Tanya Roberts has been named leader, Food Safety and Regulation Section, Food Economics Branch, Commodity Economics Division, where she will provide leadership in the coordination of food safety work within the division.

Roberts joined ERS' (then) National Economic Analysis Division in 1977 to work on policy problems related to milk. Since 1986, she has worked in the Food Policy Research Section on risk assessment and the economic losses from foodborne disease in humans.

Roberts has written numerous articles and research reports on the economics of food regulation and food safety. She has presented invited papers in Japan, Senegal, and Canada; made presentations to multidisciplinary audiences; and

testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Roberts is cochair of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology's Assessment of Risk Associated with Pathogenic Foodborne Microorganisms Committee, serves on the Executive Board of the NE-165 regional research committee, serves on the AAEE Professional Activities Committee, serves on the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics, and was cofounder of the Washington Women Economists.

Roberts has a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington.

Ribaldo Named RTD Water Quality Coordinator

Marc Ribaldo was recently named senior economist, Resource Indicators Branch, Resources and Technology Division. He will serve as water quality coordinator with responsibility for evaluating policies and programs related to agriculture and the environment. His current activities are directed toward meeting ERS' commitment to the President's Water Quality Initiative.

Ribaldo has been working on water quality issues since joining ERS in 1983. His research has

included estimating national off-site damages from soil erosion, developing procedures for estimating water quality benefits from USDA water quality and conservation programs, assessing the benefits and costs of targeting USDA programs to maximize water quality benefits, and evaluating alternative policies for reducing agriculturally related water quality problems.

Ribaudo has authored numerous research articles on agriculturally related water quality issues for USDA reports and professional journals. He has received three USDA Certificates of Merit and an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for his research.

Ribaudo has a B.S. in natural resource management and an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Maine (Orono) and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University.

Reed Named CED Section Leader

Stephen Reed has been named leader, Beef and Sheep Analysis Section, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Branch, Commodity Economics Division.

Reed worked in ERS in 1987-89 as an analyst in the Beef and Sheep Analysis Section. He is returning to ERS after 2 years as a purchasing analyst with J.L. Labatt, a food processor and brewer. During 1984-87, he was with the Western Livestock Marketing Information Project at Colorado State University. During 1982-84, Reed was with the Extension Service at Oregon State University.

Reed has a B.S. in animal science and an M.S. in agricultural economics from Oregon State University.

INTERNATIONAL from p. 3

millers, processors, traders, and government officials in major importing countries. ERS analysts have traveled to more than 20 countries that import U.S. wheat, corn, and/or soybeans to discover the role of quality and other factors in their import decisionmaking processes. In addition to the reports to the U.S. Congress, the study will also yield a comprehensive treatment of the grain and oilseeds markets in all of the countries visited, look at market structure, institutions, consumption patterns, and major market players. The project is being coordinated by William Lin, Stephanie Mercier (202-219-0821), and Alan Webb.

Highlights of Staff Activities

Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

Mary Ahearn spoke on agricultural information system improvements on the income and wealth positions of farm operator households, at Pennsylvania State University • Faqir Bagi, David Banker, and Janet Perry participated in a Washington Statistical Society workshop on categorical data analysis in the context of complex sample surveys, in Washington, D.C. • Calvin Beale spoke on rural and farm population trends at a Soil Conservation Service West/Midwest Water Resources Workshop, in Las Vegas, Nev. • Jennifer Beattie, Thomas Hady, and Michelle Robinson participated in a conference on U.S. prospects in the post-Cold War economy, sponsored by DRI/McGraw Hill, in Washington, D.C. • Thomas Carlin, Neal Peterson, and Donn Reimund traveled to Ottawa, Ont., to discuss farm structure issues with

Agriculture Canada researchers • Robert Collender participated in a Farm Credit System Assistance Board meeting on the financial status of assisted institutions, in Washington, D.C. • Kenneth Deavers spoke on the rural development efforts of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at a Partners in Rural Development meeting, in Washington, D.C. • Deavers spoke on the rural economic situation and David McGranahan spoke on rural human resource issues at a GAO symposium, in Washington, D.C. • McGranahan presented a paper, "Implications of Changes in U.S. Manufacturing for the Rural South," at a Commission on the Future of the South meeting, in Atlanta, Ga. • Douglas Duncan participated in a Federal Reserve Bank conference, in Chicago, Ill. • Chinkook Lee presented a paper, "Growth and Change in the Structure of the U.S. Agribusiness Industries, 1972-82:

An Input-Output Perspective," at an International Agribusiness Management Association symposium, in Oxford, U.K. • John Redman toured apparel and textile plants in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia to study the effects of a North American Free Trade Agreement on domestic employment • Richard Reeder presented a paper, "The Advantages and Disadvantages of the Use of Selected Economic, Social, and Fiscal Indicators in the Construction of a Federal School Policy-Impact Code for Nonmetropolitan Areas," at an American Educational Research Association meeting, in San Francisco, Calif. • Michael Salassi traveled to Arkansas to meet with rice producers and collect information for the 1992 Farm Costs and Returns Survey • and Joel Schor participated in a Society for Historians meeting, in Washington, D.C.

Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

To interview millers, processors, traders, and government officials about the role of quality and other factors in their grain and soybean import and use decisions, **Lois Caplan** and **Alan Webb** traveled to Japan; **Erin Dusch**, **Bengt Hyberg** (CED), and **Emily McClain** traveled to Brazil; **Maurice Landes** traveled to Pakistan and Sri Lanka; **Carol Levin** and **Chin-Zen Lin** (CED) traveled to the Philippines; **Maryanne Normile** traveled to the Netherlands and Spain; **John Parker** and **Shahla Shapouri** traveled to Egypt; **Terri Raney** and **Nancy Morgan** (CED) traveled to Korea; and **Sharon Sheffield** and **Roger Hoskin** (CED) traveled to Russia • **Harry Baumes** spoke on the agricultural policy formation process at a livestock policy workshop sponsored by OECD, in Washington, D.C. • **Lois Caplan**, **William Coyle**, **Karl Gudmunds** (DSC), **Terri Raney**, **Vernon Roningen**, **Fawzi Taha**, and **Alan Webb** participated in a Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference workshop at the University of

Hawaii, and **Gudmunds** and **Webb** presented a plan to establish electronic communication networks for sharing data bases and information among member countries at the same workshop • at an OECD ad hoc Group on East/West Relations in Agriculture meeting, in Paris, France, **Nancy Cochrane** presented a paper, "Bulgarian Price Policy"; **Kenneth Gray** presented a paper, "Russian Farm Privatization"; and **Robert Koopman** presented a paper, "Patterns and Trends of Price Movements and Consumption of Agricultural Products in Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia" • **John Dyck** spoke on Pacific Rim agricultural outlook and information sources at a Special Libraries Association meeting, in San Francisco, Calif. • **Kenneth Forsythe** presented a paper, "Reconciling Environmental and Trade Issues" (coauthored with **Howard McDowell**), at a W-72 regional research coordinating

committee meeting on environmental issues and agribusiness competitiveness, in Las Vegas, Nev. • **John Link** and **Mark Simone** participated in a conference on the political economy of North American free trade, sponsored by the University of Toronto and Fraser Institute, in Ottawa, Ont. • **Mark Lundell**, **Susan Pollack**, and **Felix Spinelli** traveled to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, to prepare articles for FAO's 1992 report on the state of food and agriculture • **Lundell** also traveled to Budapest, Hungary, to train analysts on livestock situation and outlook reporting • **Robert Reinsel** traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to participate in Mongolia's assistance group meeting sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development • and **Mark Wenner** participated in a water disputes and their resolution conference, sponsored by ERS, University of California (Davis), World Bank, and Ben-Gurion University, in Washington, D.C.

Commodity Economics Division

Lorna Aldrich participated in public meetings to gather information for design of an exemption from nutrition labeling for small businesses, in San Francisco, Calif., Atlanta, Ga., and Kansas City, Mo. • **Mark Ash** traveled to Pakistan and Sri Lanka to gather data and interview government officials, flour millers, grain traders, and bakers for the grain quality study that ERS is doing for USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service • **Donald Blayney** and **James Miller** participated in an NC-198 regional research committee meeting on dairy marketing, in Baltimore, Md. • **Blayney** and **Leland Southard** spoke on longer term production and use trends in the U.S. dairy

industry at an American Feed Industry Association meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Southard** spoke on livestock, dairy, and poultry situation and outlook reports at data user meetings, in Sacramento, Calif., and Minneapolis, Minn. • **Lee Christensen** presented a paper, "Economic Forces Influencing Egg Production in the West and Midwest," at a Pacific Poultry and Egg meeting, in Las Vegas, Nev. • **Terry Crawford** spoke on the current situation and outlook for world meat production and trade at an FAO Intergovernmental Group on Meat meeting, in Rome, Italy • **Betsy Frazao**, **Rosanna Morrison**, **Lester Myers**, and **David Smallwood** participated in a national food policy conference

on the need for more nutrition education for school age children and those on food stamps, sponsored by the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, in Washington, D.C. • **Lewrene Glaser** participated in an Association for the Advancement of Industrial Crops meeting, in Denver, Colo. • **Anthony Grano** and **William Lin** traveled to Taiwan to review the Council of Agriculture's situation and outlook project • **Lin** also traveled to China to interview government officials and flour millers • **Verner Grise** presented a paper, "Where Tobacco Is Grown and Where It Is Consumed," at a conference on the prevention of atherosclerosis and hypertension, in Orlando, Fla. • **Grise** also spoke on

world tobacco trade and needed adjustments in the U.S. industry to stay competitive, at a South Carolina Warehouse Association meeting, in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

• **Richard Heifner** presented a paper, "Relevance of Marketing Institutions, Regulations, and Programs" (coauthored with Walter Armbruster, Farm Foundation), at an Agricultural and Food Marketing Consortium meeting, in Alexandria, Va. • **Linwood Hoffman** and **Roger Hoskin** traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to collect data for the international

grain quality project • at a joint meeting of the International Society for Fat Research and the American Oil Chemists Society, in Toronto, Ont., **Ian McCormick** presented a paper, "Developments in the U.S. Soybean Complex"; and **Rosanna Morrison** presented a paper, "Fat Substitutes in Foods: Growing Demand and Potential Markets"

• **Myles Mielke** and **John Link** (ATAD) spoke on the implications of a North American Free Trade Agreement for the proposed land reform law at a U.S. Department of

State-sponsored seminar on Mexican agrarian reform, in Washington, D.C. • **Tanya Roberts** presented a paper, "The Economics of Food Safety: Frontiers of New Research," at a Society of Government Economists meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Thomas Tice** presented a paper, "Prospects for the Wheat and Feed Grain Situation," at a data users meeting, in Denver, Colo.

• and **Mark Weimar** participated in a National Dairy Board meeting, in Washington, D.C.

Resources and Technology Division

At a Western Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., **Jorgé Fernandez-Cornejo** presented a paper, "The Influence of Grower Attributes in the Adoption of IPM Techniques in Vegetable Production in Three States" (coauthored with **Douglas Beach**, CED, and **Wen-Yuan Huang**); **Walter Ferguson** presented a paper, "A Logit Model of Cotton Producer Participation in Commercial Scout Programs" (coauthored with **Jet Yee**); **Michael Moore** presented a paper, "Water and Land as Quantity-Rationed Inputs in California Agriculture" (coauthored with **Ariel Dinar**, University of California, Davis); and **Glen Schaible** presented a paper, "Modeling Fixed Allocable Resources in a Primal Optimization (Programming) Multi-Product Technology Framework," at a W-178 regional research meeting held in conjunction with the meeting • at a Western Economics Association International meeting in San Francisco, Calif., **Joseph Cooper** presented a paper, "A Bioeconomic Model for Estimating the Optimal Level of Deer Tag Sales"; **Kelly Day** presented a paper, "Medical

Research and the Management of Genetic Resources: The Case of Taxol" (coauthored with **George Frisvold**); **Frisvold** presented two papers, "Induced Innovation under Price Uncertainty" (coauthored with **Bruce Larson**) and "Interagency Contracts: Bargaining versus Regulation" (coauthored with **Margriet Caswell**); **LeRoy Hansen** presented a paper, "The Value of Streamflow as a Recreational Fishery Resource" (coauthored with **Tracy Dunbar**); **Arun Malik** presented a paper, "Optimal Cost-Sharing Programs to Reduce Agricultural Pollution" (coauthored with **Robbin Shoemaker**); **Robbin Shoemaker** presented a paper, "Altering Pesticide Use to Protect Groundwater Quality" (coauthored with **Margriet Caswell**); **Abebyehu Tegene** presented a paper, "A Regression Test of the Present Value Model of Farmland Prices" (coauthored with **Fred Kuchler**); and **Marca Weinberg** presented a paper, "Water Allocation in California: Endangered Fish versus Agriculture" (coauthored with **Michael Moore**) • **Joseph Guenther** (University of Idaho) presented a

paper, "Market Openings for Potatoes and Beef in the Asian Pacific Rim Fast Food Industry" (coauthored with **Biing-Hwan Lin**), at an International Agribusiness Management Association meeting, in Oxford, U.K. • **Cassandra Klotz** participated in a National Agricultural Biotechnology Council conference at Texas A&M University • **Richard Magleby** traveled to Clay Center, Nebr., to work with project evaluation staff on the Mid-Nebraska Demonstration project, one of 10 such projects funded under the President's Water Quality Initiative • **Denise Rogers** presented a paper, "Women as Agricultural Landowners: What Do We Know About Them?" (coauthored with **Anne Effland**, ARED), at a conference on rural and farm women, at the University of California (Davis) • and **Uptal Vasavada** presented a paper, "U.S. Farm Policy and Sustainability: Reviewing the Evidence," at a Southern Regional Information Exchange Group meeting on sustainable development and resource use, in New Orleans, La.

Data Services Center

At a Society of Economic Dynamics and Control conference in Montreal, Qué., **Albert Reed** (CED) presented a paper, "A Bootstrap Estimator for Dynamic Rational Expectations Models" (coauthored with **Charles Hallahan**); and **Agapi Somwaru** presented a paper,

"Modeling Dynamic Resource Adjustment Using Iterative Least Squares" (coauthored with **Eldon Ball**, RTD, and **Uptal Vasavada**, RTD) • **Karl Gudmunds** presented a paper, "Toward a Pacific Rim Agricultural Data Bank" (coauthored with **Alan Webb**,

ATAD), at a Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, in Honolulu, Hawaii • and **Gudmunds** traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss data base issues at a United Nations Trade and Development conference.

Office of the Administrator

Joseph Braxton and **Paul E. Flaim** participated in a conference on indoor air quality sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Public Health Service, in Philadelphia, Pa. • **John Lee** chaired the quarterly meeting of the USDA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Leadership Group, in Las Cruces, N. Mex., and **Millie Evano** and **Vicki Smith** were also participants in the meeting • **Katherine Reichelderfer** presented the keynote address, "Agricultural Economics in an Evolving Land Grant System," at the Western Agricultural Economics Association's annual meeting, in

Colorado Springs, Colo.

• **Reichelderfer** presented a seminar and met with faculty and students at Oregon State University • and **Reichelderfer** participated as an invited reviewer of "policy constraints," at a national integrated pest management forum, in Arlington, Va.

ERS Alumni Notes

[We invite ERS alumni to write to us at the address on page 2 about what they or other alumni are doing, where they are living, etc.]

ERS retiree **Alice Henderson** died Dec. 28 in Gaithersburg, Md. • ERS retiree **Max Jordan** died July 16 in Fairfax, Va. • ERS retiree **Loyd Martin** now lives at 457 North St., DeLeon Springs, FL 32130-3076 • and ERS retiree **Edward Smith** died June 13 in Fairfax, Va.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, ROOM 1212
1301 NEW YORK AVENUE NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4788

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-145

FIRST CLASS